



AYSO Area 1F

Advanced Referee Assessment and Certification Policies and Procedures

[Effective November 26, 2024]



The AYSO Area 1F referee staff is committed to supporting our referees so that all players in AYSO Area 1F are provided with well-trained and experienced referees. In order to maintain consistency at the highest levels of officiating within Section One and Area 1F, the following policies and procedures will be utilized for all upgrades to the Advanced Referee level.

It is required that the candidate obtain one or more friendly mentoring assessments from any Referee Assessor or National Referee in good standing prior to requesting a formal Advanced Referee assessment. This experience, along with mentoring, helps prepare the candidate and has shown to improve the formal assessment experience.

Assessment Policies

- **Assessor Qualification:** For assessments of candidates at the Referee position, the Assessor must be an AYSO certified Referee Assessor or National Referee Assessor from outside the candidate's home AYSO Region, unless authorized in writing by the Area Director of Referee Assessment (ADRA) *prior to the assessment*. For assessment at the Assistant Referee position, the Assessor may be any AYSO certified Referee Assessor or National Referee Assessor, including from within the candidate's home Region. In any case, if the Assessor is from another Area, the Assessor's ADRA must be contacted by the Area 1F ADRA to verify the Assessor's credentials *prior to the assessment*.

Each of the candidate's successful assessments must be performed by a different Assessor, unless authorized in writing by the ADRA *prior to the assessment*. If the candidate is recommended for further observation, the same Assessor may be used for another assessment.

- **Match level and length:** Advanced Referee candidates shall be assessed in a typical 14U-Boys full length (i.e., 70-minute) match. With prior ADRA and Area Referee Administrator (ARA) written approval, a 16U or 19U match may be used for the assessments. These requests will be judged on a case-by-case basis. However, the candidate should recognize that being assessed during an older age group will likely make the game management more difficult and, therefore, the assessment more rigorous.
- **Non-AYSO matches:** If requested by the candidate, and approved by the ADRA prior to the assessment, a non-AYSO match of the equivalent age division (or higher) may be used for the assessment. The match must utilize the Diagonal System of Control, have a three-person referee team (no dual-system games are allowed), and be of the required match level and length as specified above. Assistant referees for these non-AYSO assessment matches are not required to be AYSO certified, but must be certified by the association having jurisdiction over the match (USSF, NISOA, CIF, etc.).

Assessment Procedure

The AYSO Area 1F Advanced Referee upgrade assessment procedure is outlined in the steps below. Each referee desiring upgrade to the Advanced Referee level must follow the steps as written.

Step 1: A referee wishing to upgrade to the Advanced Referee level must contact his/her *Regional* Director of Referee Assessment (RDRA) to request assessment. The candidate must also line up at least one game (more games improve the chances of finding an available Assessor) of the required level and length which will be available for the assessment and provide this information to the ADRA.

NOTE: To maximize the ADRA's probability of engaging an available Assessor, it is highly recommended that the candidate accomplishes this step of the process at least *two to three weeks* prior to the desired assessment date.

Step 2: The candidate's RDRA shall contact the ADRA to verify that the candidate is deemed ready for an assessment and upgrade to Advanced Referee (including requisite classes taken, AYSO volunteer certifications obtained, and exams successfully passed, mentoring, etc.).

Step 3: The ADRA shall then contact and assign a qualified AYSO certified Referee Assessor or National Referee Assessor to one of the available games. In cases where the ADRA wishes to have multiple candidates assessed in a single match (e.g., Referee and Assistant Referee), the individual Assessor will decide whether one or two candidates may be assessed during a particular game. In no case will one Assessor be allowed to conduct more than two assessments in one match. All three members of a referee team can be assessed in the same match if two Assessors are assigned to that match.

Step 4: After the ADRA has approved the scheduled assessment, the ADRA shall provide the candidate with the Assessor's contact information, and the candidate must contact the Assessor directly to confirm the arrangements.

- If the candidate cannot keep the commitment as scheduled, he/she must contact the ADRA and the Assessor immediately.
- If the Assessor cannot keep the commitment as scheduled, he/she must contact the ADRA immediately so that an alternate Assessor can be found. In this case, Step 3 must be repeated.

Step 5: After the candidate has completed all of the requirements for upgrade, the candidate must complete the upgrade application, sign it, and send it to the ADRA for review, approval, and signature. The ADRA's contact info is on the Area 1F Website: <https://www.ayso1f.org/Default.aspx?tabid=963483>

Step 6: After verifying all the information on the upgrade application, the ADRA will submit the application to the AYSO Section 1 Referee Administrator (who issues the Advanced Referee badge to the candidate).

Referee Upgrade Certification Policy

In order to receive approval for upgrade to Advanced Referee in Area 1F, candidates must:

- Be registered for the current year as documented in the National AYSO registration system.
- Have a minimum of one year of experience as an Intermediate Referee and have officiated the number of matches required by AYSO (including at the Referee and Assistant Referee positions) before the upgrade will become effective.
- Have one mentor session with any Referee Assessor or National Referee.
- Have passed the Advanced Referee written examination and the physical fitness test and have completed both assessments required for this upgrade (Referee and Assistant Referee) within Four years (48 months) prior to the date he/she submits the completed upgrade application.
- Candidates must complete the Advanced Referee course, written examination, physical fitness test and mentoring *prior to* starting the assessment process. Prior completion of these requirements significantly improves the chances of the assessments being successful.

APPROVED: Michael Wolff, AYSO Area 1F Director of Referee Assessor